

The Institute of Plumbing Inspectors, Qld. Inc

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TLGC

The Research Director
Transport, Local Government and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House
Gorge Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Research Director

On behalf of members and the management committee for the Institute of Plumbing Inspectors Queensland (IPIQ), I extend my gratitude to the TLGIC for the invitation for submissions to the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (SPOLAB).

The section of interest for the proposed Bill we wish to place for submission is the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002, as it relates to sectors of our industry, of which the IPIQ is a significant and recognised stakeholder.

- The IPIQ accept the fact that changes within the building industry are inevitable and all sectors must be managed to assist in advancing today's expectations and encompass the possibilities of reducing overheads for the consumer as well as ensuring that compliance is maintained to protect the plumbing industry.

Administrative and compliance issues always have been a significant component of Acts, Regulations and Legislation to protect and confirm a myriad of lifestyle expectations as generations develop acceptance for an economic balance.

- The proposed Bill (SPOLAB) shows a balanced arena for all sectors of the industry, in that it will recognise the fact, that a level playing field is envisaged for licensees who respect the regime of "Notifiable Work" (NW). Licensees who wish to operate outside the regime guidelines will encounter an investigative audit procedure and possible prescribed penalties.

A valued outcome for the proposal will engender a consistent approach across all regions within Queensland for the licensee who will be adopting the impending National Licensing System and the recently introduced Plumbing Code of Australia.

- The Explanatory Notes included into the Bill demonstrate planned outcomes for the proposed changes and the Plumbing Industry Council (PIC) has indicated a programmed structure for implementation of NW and procedures.

The challenging outcome for the above implementation will be the information trail required within the allotted time frame. However, the PIC is willing to address this issue by consumer awareness and provision of amended forms.

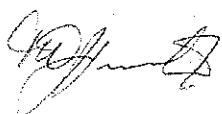
- **Consideration to be noted** - For the under slab drainage (Class 1) to remain "compliance assessable" work is strongly recommended as a means of ensuring that testing and recording in an appropriate manner for the life of the job is maintained.
- **Consideration to be noted** - For the plumbing industry to adopt a programme of Continual Professional Development (CPD) as paramount for the ongoing future of gaining and retaining educational values for the implementation of this Bill (SPOLAB) and complimenting the guidance that legislative providers administer. The IPIQ have a recognised programme of CPD and have included it in as an integral component of our submission for Plumbing Inspector Licensing, currently under review by the Hon. Paul Lucas MP, Attorney – General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State.

Building Codes Queensland (BCQ) continues to demonstrate the ability to provide a diverse and cohesive structure within the plumbing component of the building industry, of which we are part of, and a clear demonstration of this has been the consultative arrangements demonstrated in this Bill (SPOLAB). Changes in Acts, Regulations and Legislation inherently encounter scepticism and differing opinions. As committed practitioners in the industry we have proven in the past that we are willing to embrace challenges which are evidenced by previous enactments being applied.

- It is only natural that IPIQ members at times show a sense of ownership when change is on the agenda. Being a part of the process is a lot easier and comforting than waking up to a change overnight.
- The IPIQ intends to continue our commitment to the industry in ensuring that a suitable outcome is adopted and administered for the proposed changes. It is in our best interest to maintain a professional attitude and cohesiveness to produce the best possible outcome in an efficient and diligent manner as local government inspectors, who have adopted the challenges in the recent amalgamation with neighbouring authorities.

The management committee, on behalf of our members, thank the TLGIC for inviting the IPIQ to make this submission, for the benefit of the industry and community in whom we serve.

Yours Sincerely



Max Hunter
President IPIQ